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Agenda item 128
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2008-2009

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In part IV, paragraph 2, of its resolution 60/248, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium.

In this context, and in accordance with the provisions of the statute (see resolution 39/148 H, annex, article VIII, para. 3) and the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, the General Assembly is requested to approve a subvention in the amount of $485,500 for UNIDIR from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2008-2009. The related provision is included in the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 under section 4, Disarmament.

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1. At its forty-eighth session, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the report of the Director of the Institute on its activities for the period from August 2006 to July 2007 and the proposed programme of work and estimated resource requirements for 2007 and 2008 (see A/62/152). The present report, reflecting the updated estimates that have since been provided by the Institute for review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, is submitted to the Assembly in the context of its consideration of a subvention to UNIDIR for 2008-2009 from the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. Through the aforementioned report of the Director of UNIDIR, the Board of Trustees recommended continuation of a subvention from the United Nations regular budget. Such a subvention is important for ensuring the independence of the Institute.

3. The proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2008-2009, under section 4, Disarmament (A/62/6 (sect. 4) and Corr.1), contains a provision of $485,500, representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium. This amount will be subject to subsequent recosting in accordance with the established procedures.

4. Under section IV of resolution 44/201 B, entitled "Subvention from the regular budget to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research", the Secretary-General is required to report annually to the General Assembly on the situation of the Institute. In this context, the updated financial situation of the Institute (details of which are included in annexes I through IV to the present note) may be summarized as follows:

(a) Funds available at the beginning of 2007 amounted to $1,667,700. This figure includes an amount of $284,500 required as an operating cash reserve;

(b) Total income for 2007 is estimated at $2,328,800 from the following sources: voluntary contributions and public donations ($2,013,800); interest income ($40,000); inter-organizational contributions ($13,000); and the subvention from the United Nations regular budget ($262,000). It is also estimated that of the total voluntary contributions and public donations, approximately 71.3 per cent will be used for special projects and 28.7 per cent for other purposes, including administrative costs;

(c) Total revised estimated expenditure for 2007 is $2,593,600, including a provision of $111,000 for programme support costs. Requirements for 2008 are estimated at $2,163,300, inclusive of $92,000 for programme support costs;

(d) Available funds at the beginning of 2008 are estimated at $1,402,900, inclusive of an amount of $311,800 as an operating cash reserve.

5. It would be recalled that the General Assembly in its resolution 60/248 endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the Institute be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium.

6. **Accordingly, the General Assembly is requested to approve a subvention to UNIDIR of $485,500 (before recosting) from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2008-2009, the provision for which has been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium.**

Annex I

Income and expenditure estimates for 2007 and 2008

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Items	*2007 (estimates)*	*2008 (estimates)*
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 667.7[a]	1 402.9[b]
B. Income:		
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 013.8[c]	1 135.4[d]
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	262.0	231.5[e]
Other inter-organizational contributions	13.0[c]	20.0[d]
Interest income	40.0	30.0
Total income	**2 328.8**	**1 416.9**
C. Total funds available	3 996.5	2 819.8
D. Expenditure	2 593.6	2 163.2
E. Fund balance at the end of the year	1 402.9[b]	656.6[f]

[a] Includes $284,500 required as operating cash reserve for 2006.
[b] Includes $311,800 required as operating cash reserve for 2007.
[c] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2007 estimated income from voluntary sources.
[d] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 2008 estimated income from voluntary sources. The estimates for 2008 contributions are conservative. Experience shows that they will be much higher but this cannot, of course, be guaranteed at this stage.
[e] To be technically adjusted prior to the approval of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009.
[f] Includes $230,300 required as operating cash reserve for 2008.

Annex II

Estimated resource requirements, 2007 and 2008

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	*(a)* *2007 (estimates)*	*(b)* *2008[a] (estimates)*	*(c=(b-a))* *Increase/ decrease*
A. Direct administrative costs			
Salaries and related staff costs	414.7	618.4	203.7
General temporary assistance	33.0	—	(33.0)
Temporary assistance for meetings	7.0	10.0	3.0
Consultants' fees and travel	168.2	121.4	(46.8)
Ad hoc expert groups	205.4	67.0	(138.4)
Personal service contract	1 482.3	1 077.5	(404.8)
Official travel of staff	118.8	142.3	23.5
Training	4.0	4.0	—
Contractual services	4.0	4.0	—
Hospitality	13.5	6.0	(7.5)
Premises: rental and maintenance	5.0	2.0	(3.0)
Rental of office equipment	3.7	3.7	—
Communication	2.0	1.0	(1.0)
Acquisition of office equipment	7.8	2.8	(5.0)
Acquisition, software packages	2.0	—	(2.0)
Paper for internal reproduction	10.0	10.0	—
Subscriptions and standing orders	1.2	1.2	—
Total A	**2 482.6**	**2 071.3**	**(411.3)**
B. Programme support costs			
5% of (total A, less United Nations subvention)	111.0	92.0	(19.0)
Total expenditure (total A+B)	**2 593.6**	**2 163.3**	**(430.3)**
C. Operating cash reserve			
Operating cash reserve (15% of expenditure on contributions other than from the European Union, less United Nations subvention, and 5% on contributions from the European Union)	304.3	261.9	(42.4)
Grand total A+B+C	**2 897.9**	**2 425.2**	**(472.7)**

[a] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

Annex III

Income from voluntary sources, 2007 and 2008

(United States dollars)

Voluntary contributions	*2007*	*2008*[a]
A. Governmental contributions		
Austria	40 000	—
Canada	104 066	—
China	35 000	35 000
Finland	53 800	—
France	300 000	300 000
India	5 000	5 000
Ireland	10 000	—
Israel	19 000	10 000
Japan	30 000	30 000
Luxembourg	6 485	6 000
Netherlands	138 560	30 000
New Zealand	10 000	10 000
Norway	230 000	343 000
Republic of Korea	20 000	20 000
Russian Federation	100 000	100 000
Sweden	280 255	60 000
Switzerland	78 566	60 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	41 200	—
United States of America	150 000	—
Subtotal A	**1 651 932**	**1 009 000**
B. Public donations		
European Commission	166 957	59 791
Graduate Institute for International Studies	6 560	—
Marie Curie Foundation	121 117	66 594
Simons Foundation	17 213	—
University of Geneva	50 000	—
Subtotal B	**361 847**	**126 385**
Total voluntary contributions (A+B)	**2 013 779**	**1 135 385**
C. Inter-organizational contributions		
Office for Disarmament Affairs	8 000	20 000
United Nations Development Programme	5 000	—
Subtotal C	**13 000**	**20 000**
Grand total (A+B+C)	**2 026 779**	**1 155 385**

[a] These figures will be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

Annex IV

Revised status of 2007 estimated income from voluntary sources

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Total amount of contribution*
Received	
Canada	104 066
China	35 000
Finland	53 800
France	300 000
Ireland	10 000
Japan	30 000
Luxembourg	6 485
Netherlands	23 684
Norway	29 975
Russian Federation	100 000
Switzerland	78 566
European Commission	166 957
Marie Curie Foundation	121 117
Simons Foundation	17 213
University of Geneva	23 626
Subtotal	**1 100 489**
Pledged	
Austria	40 000
India	5 000
Israel	19 000
Netherlands	114 876
New Zealand	10 000
Norway	200 025
Republic of Korea	20 000
Sweden	280 255
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	41 200
United States of America	150 000
Graduate Institute for International Studies	6 560
University of Geneva	26 374
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs	8 000
United Nations Development Programme	5 000
Subtotal	**926 290**
Total	**2 026 779**